

CULTURAL eMAGAZINE

VOL-1 ISSUE - 28
OCT 22-28, 2021

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28

SURU VALLEY

*Famous for
Nun & Kun*



SNIGDHA TIWARI
A lone adventurer
TRAVELHOLICQ

Amazing to Know
Book Review
Roshan's Cucina
Tarot Reading



The Vintage
Mirror
Dr. ASWATHY A



My Travel
RANA SAFVI

CULTURAL eMAGAZINE



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Editor's Note

Travel Blogging

Helping students to write for real audience

The concept of audience seems to be quite challenging to grasp. Unfortunately, the teachers may not dedicate much of class time to teaching about audience, not only because of the rather intensive curricula programs, but also due to lack of activities and exercises designed for practicing the concept of audience.

I will suggest one tool that you can implement in your writing course to help your students write with a particular audience in mind. In addition, this tool can motivate your students and engage them in the meaningful use of the written language. The tool is simple—travel blogging.

Certainly, many of our students have traveled at least once in their lives. And it doesn't have to be a major trip to a different country or a cruise. Some trips can be very simple, yet worthy of describing and reflecting on. Plus, students don't have to keep their travel blog on a regular basis throughout the course; instead, they can simply start their blog to get the hang of it, and, later, they can continue updating their blogs with more descriptions and pictures from their trips.

Finally, along with offering students the opportunity to write for a "real audience," travel blogs also give teachers a chance to introduce the concept of multimedia composing in their classes.

One word of caution. Students may feel quite excited to see their stories online at first, but they can also pretty soon lose enthusiasm or run out of ideas. Encourage your students to stay motivated. Tell them that writing a travel blog shouldn't be viewed as a chore. Ask students to share their travel blogs with the class. You can also organize an activity in which students will respond to each others' blog entries.



Happy Reading...!!
Varghese T. Thomas

The Djinguereber Masjid (built - 1327) Timbuktu, Mali

Text & Images: Risha Zidd

In the middle of the Sub-Saharan Africa lies a unique Masjid which over the years, has become the centre of knowledge for thousands of Muslims. Its design is accredited to Abu Es Haq es Saheli who was paid 200 kg of gold by Musa I of Mali, emperor of the Mali, Empire.

This Masjid situated in Mali's city of Timbuktu has entirely been built from organic materials such as wood, limestone and has been rendered with mud. >>

amazing
to know



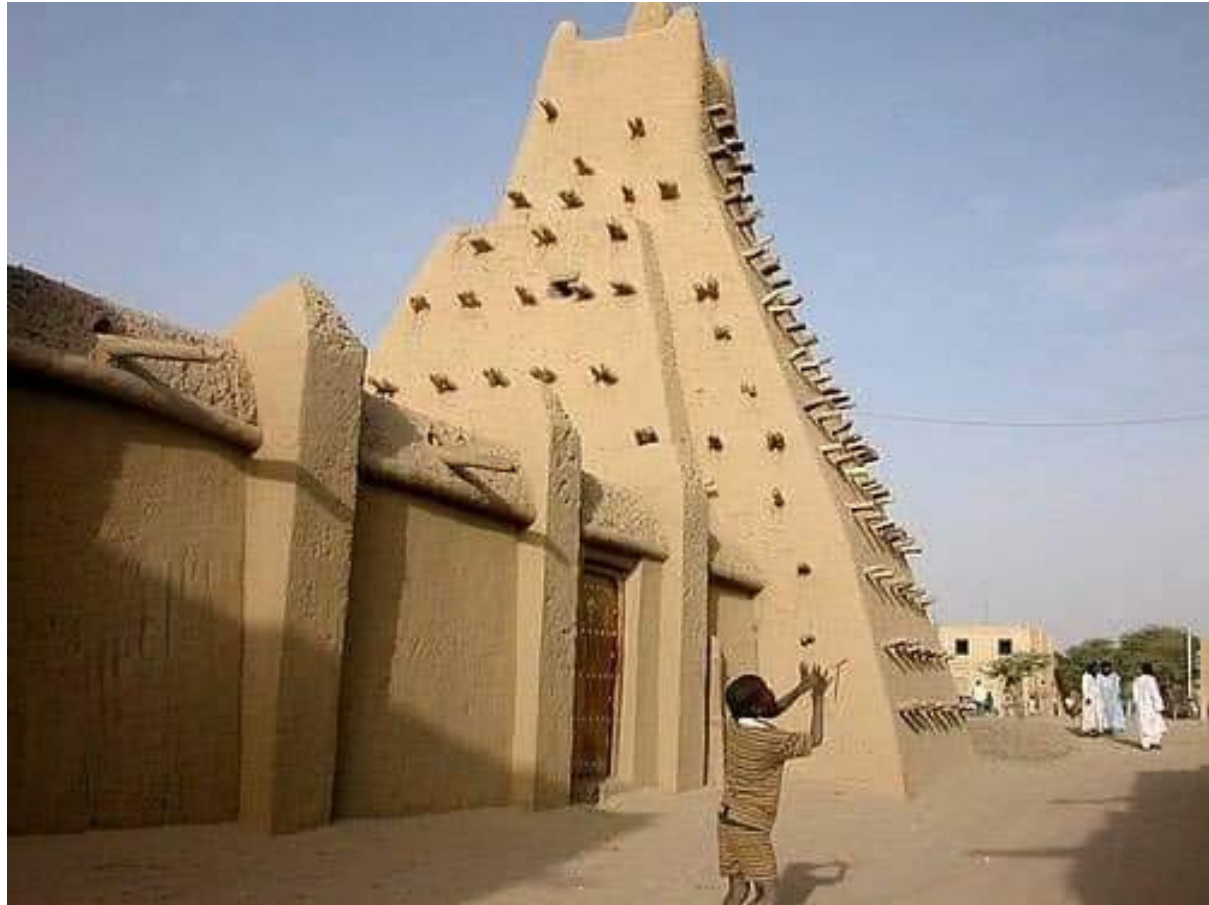
The architectural significance of this Masjid is that it has been built with earthen bricks, which serves as a natural indicator to keep the inside walls of the Masjid cool during the arid summers.

It has three inner courts, two minarets and twenty five rows of pillars aligned in an East West direction and prayer space for 2,000 people. Djinguereber is one of the four Madrasahs composing the university of Timbuktu.

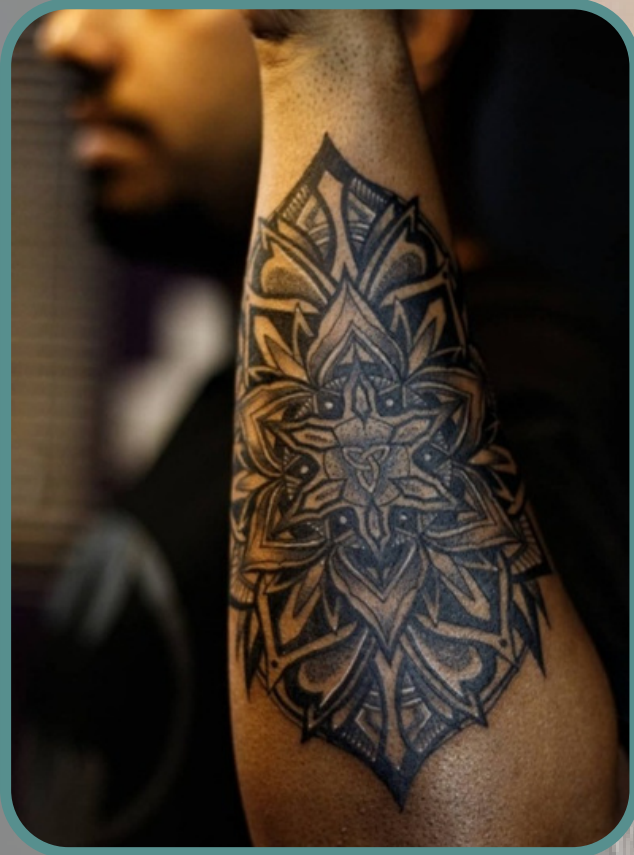
It was inscribed on the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites in 1998. <>

The Djinguereber Masjid (built - 1327) Timbuktu, Mali

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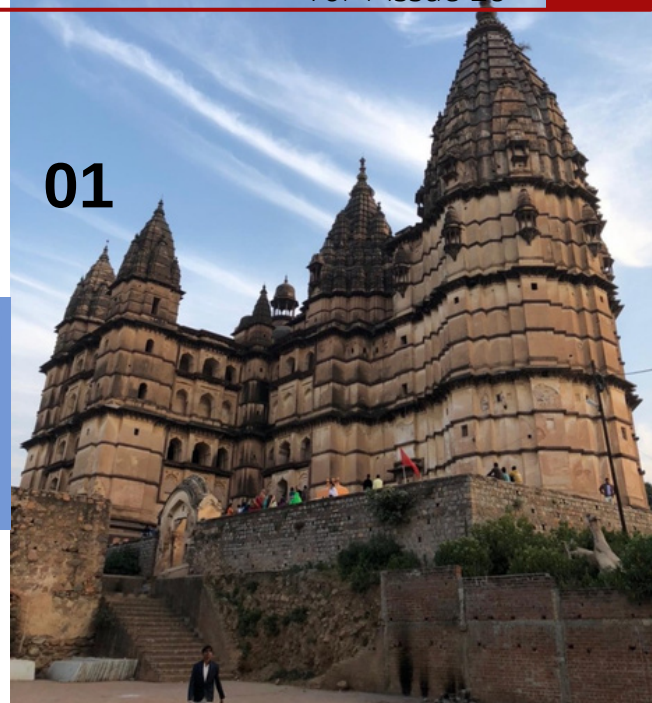
Drop in : Mulanthuruthy
Ernakulam, Near Kochi, Kerala



My Travel-1
RANA SAFVI

Chaturbhuji Temple, Orchha

Orchha was founded as the capital of Bundelkhand by Rudra Pratap in 1531. He built his citadel on an island in the Betwa river with 3 palaces & temples in a line. The skyline is dominated by the Chaturbhuji Mandir, started by Madhukar Shah (1554-92) & completed by his son Bir Singh Deo (1605-27) with the tallest spire at 344 feet the temple is famed for having the tallest vimana in temples. Built of bricks layered with lime plaster it has stucco work on the exterior which is ornamented with lotus symbols. It has the mandal, ardha mandal and garbha griha. >>



Chaturbhuji Temple, Orchha

As the sanctum of the Chaturbhuji temple remained empty an image of Lord Krishna and Radha were installed there & are worshipped.

The temple displays a blend of Religious and secular styles with the exterior following temple architecture & interior resembling forts of the Mughal Era.

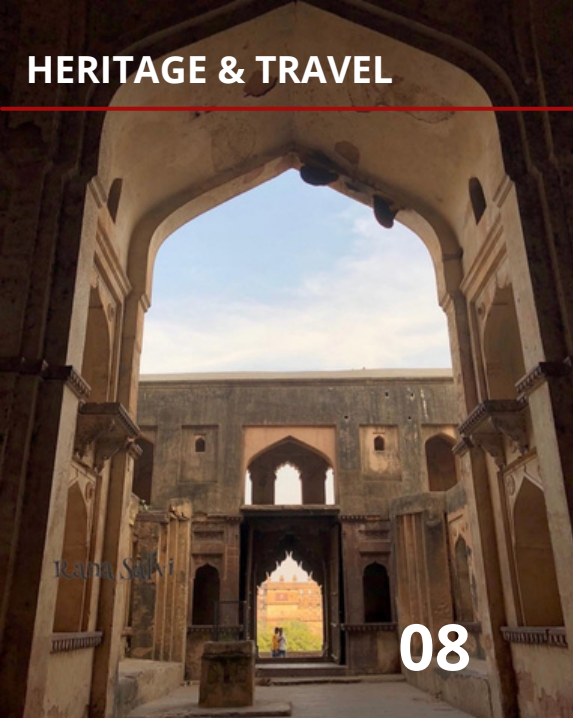
This is reminiscent of many forts and mosques of mughal Era & provincial Sultanates. The temple has a wonderful view of the Jahangir Mahal. >>



Chaturbhuj Temple, Orchha

Emperor Jahangir and Raja Bir Singh Deo were very good friends. In Jahangir's reign (1605-27) Bir Singh Deo became very powerful. It was a period of peace & saw construction of many monuments wh incorporated dome, vault, arch, decorative motifs of Mughals in garden settings but adding exciting experimentation & innovation to form Bundela style. <>

Photo 1- Chaturbhuj temple exterior
2&3,7&8-interior
4&6- view of Jahangir Mahal
5- Jahangir Mahal



My Travel-2
RANA SAFVI



The art of khatamband or decorative ceilings of Kashmir



The Zadibal Imambara was built in 1518, by Kaji Chak, and is one of the oldest historic places in Kashmir valley. This Imambara was destroyed a number of times and in 2004 it was taken down to restructure and rebuild.

I was very fortunate to be taken there by Hakim Sameer Hamdani who is the design Director for Intach Srinagar and in charge of designing the ceiling.

The art of khatamband or decorative ceilings of Kashmir

What I saw was amazing.

Khatamband Literally coming to an end, closing and considering it's origin and use in shrines has deeper spiritual meanings connected to Sacred geometry.



It is the art of making decorative ceiling, by fitting small pieces of polygonal wood of either walnut or deodar tree into each other in geometrical patterns, and joining them with the help of beading panels. These beading are called gaj-patti. >>

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The art of khatamband or decorative ceilings of Kashmir



The polygon is the posh or flower.

It's painstaking work as no glue or nails are used in joining them. Naqqashi, as I understood from Mr Hamdani is the art of painting/decorating these tiles. It is also called gireh band or knotting together.

It's sometimes erroneously called papier mache. The origin of this exquisite art form is not known. While some attribute it to Mirza Hyder Tugluq in 1541,

Others say it was brought by the famous Sufi saint Mir Syed Ali Hamdani who visited Kashmir in 14th century along with his followers included Khatamband artists from Iran. These artisans passed on this art to locals here. In order to preserve this beautiful art form, it was awarded a GI certificate in 2011 and there are around 600-700 artists. A group of 10-15 would work under one master craftsman.

There are over 160 khatamband designs but only few are being made today due to the high level of skill and intricate involved. <>

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SURU VALLEY



SNIGDHA TIWARI

Travelholicq - A lone
adventure traveler

4 BEAUTIFUL PLACES TO VISIT IN LADAKH'S SURU VALLEY

Famous for Nun and
Kun peaks, Suru
Valley is one of the
most beautiful fertile
valleys of the region
with its own unique
culture.

Suru Valley extends from Kargil in the south towards Kargil Zaskar for a length of 85 km. The hills of Suru Valley are cultivated intensively than anywhere else in Ladakh. The Nun Kun peaks offer an excellent combination of alpine slopes, ridges, glacial formations, and majestic peaks for adventure lovers. >>

The valley is dotted with picturesque human settlements and lush green fields and a colorful range of flowers. The valley is especially picturesque in spring when apricots, mulberry, apple trees are in full bloom and in autumn when the trees are full of fruits.

The winter is extreme and heavy snowfalls are normal here but now it's time to check out some of the beautiful places to visit in Suru Valley so you can add them to your bucket list.

SURU VALLEY



History of Suru Valley

The region, which we today known as Suru Valley, was once composed of small chiefdoms. In the early 18th century, it became part of the Purig kingdom. In the 16th century, Islam was introduced to it from preachers travelling via Baltistan.

While Purig was taken over by the Namgyal dynasty of Ladakh in the mid 18th century, the Dogras captured the entire region by 1847. Today, the Line of Control (LoC) runs close to Kargil. >>

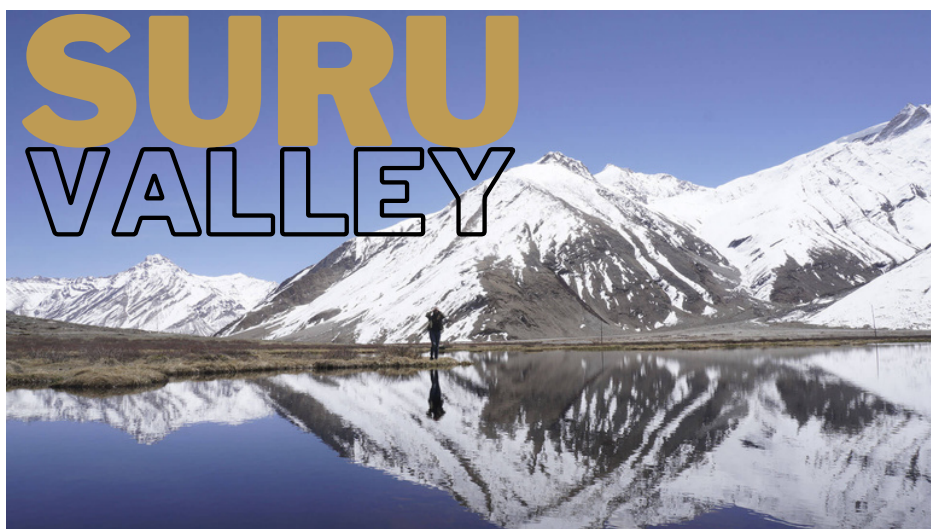
Here are the 4 Beautiful Places to Visit In Ladakh's Suru Valley:

1. Panikhar

While most of the villages in Ladakh are known for their extremely enticing beauty and charm, Panikhar totally steals the show which is located 26 km from the village of Sankoo.

Panikhar is a captivating village in the Suru Valley of Ladakh, this magnificent hamlet is among the best maintained and serene villages which you will find during your trip to Ladakh. Panikhar is only 75 km from Kargil and can be reached in less than 3 hours by hiring a cab.

Untouched by the hands of commercialization, Panikhar has endured and also showcases its bountiful beauty with full glory. With the Suru River following the trails that lead to this bewitching village in Ladakh, the beauty and splendor get further adorned with greeneries on both sides. >>



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PRESENTS

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ALVARAMBATHE ANURAGAKALARI

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Lyrics: Besto Devassykutty - Mookkannoor
Music: Noby Paul | Vocals: Noby Paul & Sruthy Sivadas
BGM, Mix & Mastering: Edwin Johnson
On Screen: Amal Nath K (Alumni of Kalakshetra) & Sreelakshmi K G
Studios: K7 Studio Kochi & Peaks n Lows pro audios - New Jersey
DOP: Bibin Baby Thelappilly | Design: Subin Kumar S S

Noby Paul Sruthy Sivadas Besto Devassykutty

MAZHAVILLU VIRIYUMBOL...
Mazhavillu Viriyumbol

Lyrics : NAIBY SONISH | Music: NOBY PAUL
Vocal: GAYATHRY RAJIV (Mazhavil Manorama Super 4 Contestant)
BGM: AJAYAN K. S. | Studio: GEETHAM MEDIA STUDIO, KOCHI
Recorded, Mix & Mastered: JINTO JOHN
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SURU VALLEY

This serene village is ideal for enjoying the scenic views. It is the best place to get a view of Nun mountain. You can also visit the nearby Parkachik Pass. You can stop at Panikhar to witness the simple lifestyle of the inhabitants here who are quite hospitable.

And if you happen to visit Panikhar during the winters, you will be welcomed by captivating views of snow-capped peaks with its pearly-white meadows casting their spell on you! On the other hand, summers are marked by a magical change that converts the entire village into fantasy land!

All you can witness during the summers is colorful flowers throughout the village; which is also known as the 'Valley of Flowers' of the Trans-Himalayan region. I am pretty sure after reading this, you won't like to miss this magical village for sure on your trip to Suru valley. >>



2. Nun Peak

SURU VALLEY

Nun Peak, Ladakh

Being one of the highest peaks in the part of the Himalayan range lying on the Indian side of the Line of Control in Ladakh, Nun Peak mountain massif consists of a pair of Himalayan peaks: Nun, 7,135 m and its neighbor peak Kun Peak, 7,077 m.

Towering at an elevation of 7135 m, this peak in Suru Valley watches over the entire Zaskar area. Attempting a summit bid on Nun Peak can be extremely enthralling due to the challenging trekking trail. The gradual change in the level of difficulty and the mesmerizing landscape view makes this expedition appealing to adventurers. The trekking trail passes through remote villages, rough ridges, and snow-layered paths that are so heart-stealing.



This peak is easily accessible through Kargil to Zaskar road and it has been the most attractive peak destination in the great Himalaya Range for the peak climber after Mount Everest, NunKun peak consider as a mini Everest to the adventure lover. If you want to be close to the extreme serenity then climb to Nun Peak is a must. >>

SURU VALLEY

3. Kun Peak

Kun Peak, Ladakh

Located in the upper Suru Valley, Kun Peak is the second-highest peak of the Nun Kun massif. Kun was the first to be conquered in 1913 by the Italian mountaineer Piacenza, while Nun, the highest summit of the massif, was first scaled by the Swiss climber, Madame Claude Kogan in 1953.

The Nun Kun Massif is a very popular climbing area of the region that is booked out from months ahead, sometimes years, by climbing expeditions, therefore advance arrangements are a necessity.

It offers an opportunity for climbers to scale one of the highest peaks of Ladakh (7,077 m), and higher than any other peaks in the world outside the great Himalayas!



Climbing Kun Peak will bring you a once-in-a-lifetime experience of conquering Mount Kun peak, and thereby the experience to conquer yourself. So, don't miss climbing this Himalayan mountain if you love to climb but remember it is considered one of the most challenging climbing destinations in the Great Himalayas. >>

4. Pensi La Pass

Pensi La Pass, Ladakh

Pensi La is a mountain pass in the Ladakh which is known as the Gateway to Zaskar. Pensi La is 4,400 m above sea level and connects the Suru Valley region to the Zaskar Valley region.

The Pensi La pass features glorious views owing to its high altitude. And spending some time here taking in all the natural beauty ensconced by silence is a wonderful experience.

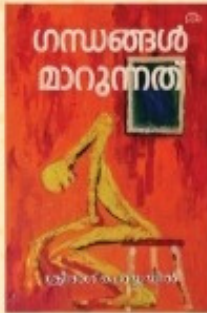
The pass is situated close to Kargil and you can combine visits to the two together. A lovely glacial lake and the Drang Drung Glacier also lie at close range to the Pensi La where you can capture the stunning view of the Suru River valley, the glacial lake, and the Drang Drung Glacier. This beautiful pass features striking gorgeous views that will bewitch your mind with its enticing beauty. <>

SURU VALLEY

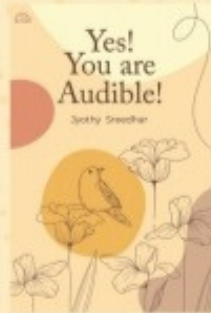


If you wish to explore the region in greater depth, you can also visit the Rangdum Monastery which lies approximately 25 kilometers away from this pass. So, Pensi La Pass awaits you!

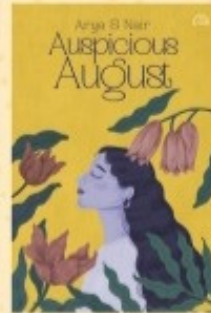
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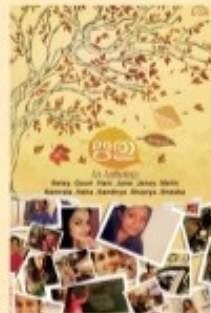
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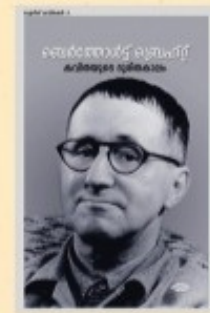
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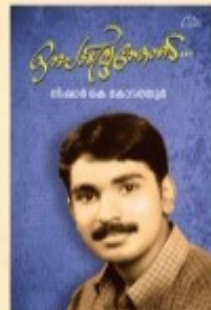
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BOOK REVIEW

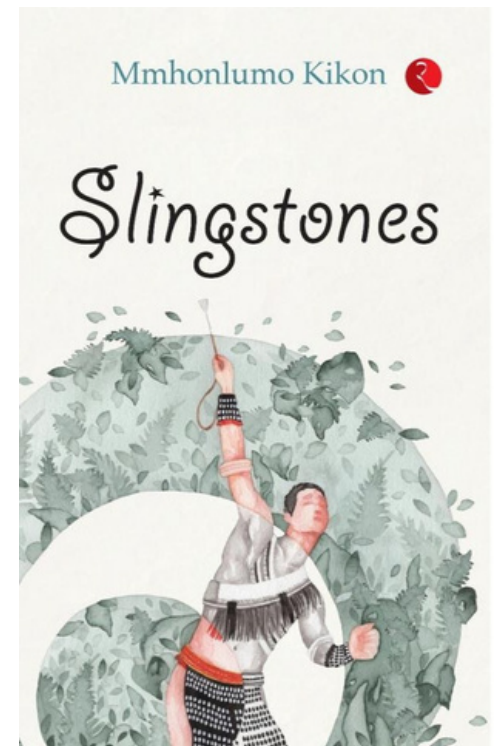
Source: EastMojo/PTI

Book explores historical and spiritual landscape of communities in Northeast

According to the publishers, Kikon's poems isolate and examine the unchanging nature of space and time, the past and the present, the here and now.

A new poetry book, written by Nagaland BJP MLA and poet Mmhonlumo Kikon, explores the historical and spiritual landscape of the indigenous communities in Northeast India.

>>



"I wrote 'Slingstones' during the frequent anxious moments of the pandemic immediately as we started to grapple with the new challenges of the lockdown. I started to examine the past from the prism of the present, and investigated both the historical and the cultural background of the region," said Kikon about the book.





Book launch



BOOK REVIEW

The book, “Slingstones”, is published by Rupa Publications. The collection of over 100 poems is a searing portrayal of the “innate and native desire to revive a cultural ethos that has been drowning in a vortex of complex and systemic institutions.”

“The poems try to capture the essence of the daily mundane human activities which delineates the effortless fusion of the indigenous culture and the modern material culture,” he added.

According to the publishers, Kikon’s poems isolate and examine the unchanging nature of space and time, the past and the present, the here and now.

“He takes a penetrating look at the banalities of daily life that actually shape and define the contours of identity, both within communities and outside,” they said in a statement.

The author’s previous books on poetry are “The Penmi Poems” (2018) and “The Village Empire” (2019).

“Slingstones” is presently available for sale on online and offline stores.



Dr. Aswathy A is Assistant Professor of English at NSS College for Women, Thiruvananthapuram.

She has authored a collection of poems titled, Absences – Of Intimacy and Solitude (2020) and co-edited an anthology of poems Meraki (2021).

She has a stint with electronic media as an anchor/host in women-oriented shows. Other areas of interest include food studies, local History, travelling, painting and photography. She lives in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India.

THE VINTAGE *Mirror*

The vintage mirror
drab and dull
remembers
hearts
scars
and
frailties

.....

the vintage mirror
dark and dotted
recounts
words
tears
and
sacrifices

.....

the vintage mirror
decrepit and dingy
resurrects
moments
torments
and
deceptions

.....

but the one
I hold has
no frame, hooks nor
nails
to
mount and reflect

Roshan's CUCINA

Diamond cuts are simple to prepare and can be stored in an air tight container for about a week. The above tastes even better with the infusion of orange juice in the syrup.

Diamond Cuts | Little Heart Shaped with an Orange Twist



Daisy Roshan Rebera is a food enthusiast. Having grown up in the hill station Valparai, vegetables mean home grown ones and so she advocates for cooking with locally available ingredients with a healthy twist. She is currently teaching English in a college at Ernakulam, Kochi.

The recipe

Flour - 1 cup
Water - 1/4 - 1/2 cup
salt - 2 pinch
powdered sugar - 2 tsp (optional)
butter - 1 tsp or beaten egg - 1 tbsp
Oil - to deep fry

Ingredients for the orange syrup

1 small cup sugar
Use the same cup to measure the liquid - 1//4 part water
+ 1/4 part orange juice

The method

Mix the flour with butter/egg, salt and powdered sugar. Make a dough by adding water little by little. It should be a tough dough otherwise, the diamond wont be crispy. Divide the dough into four portions. Roll each portion into a sheet using a rolling pin. Cut the sheets into 2 cm broad strip. Cut it across to form diamond shaped pieces. Fry it in oil until it turns light brown and crispy. Drain it.

To make the syrup, heat the sugar and the liquid together until it forms a soft string consistency.

Pour the syrup over the fried diamond cuts little by little and toss it to coat.

Though this is a diamond cuts, i used heart shaped cutter to make it look exciting.

Relish!

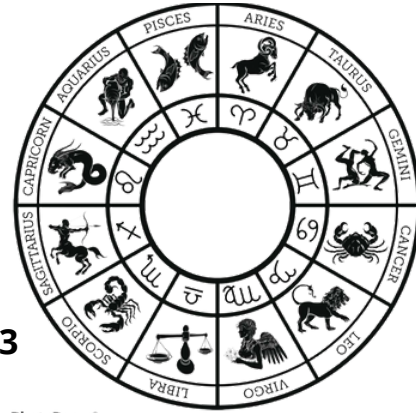




WEEKLY Tarot Reading

By: **Chaitali Mukherjee**

<https://youtube.com/c/TarotPriestess1313>



**Your Next
7 Days**
Oct 22-28, 2021

You are suffering in silence, outwardly you don't want to share it with others. You are standing your ground on an issue. Your independent & fiery streak is egging you on to hit a major goal. You are advised to have hope in this situation.

ARIES

LIBRA

You might be going through some power struggles, may be a showdown with someone close. Wise choices and a firm foundation will improve the situation. You will see the beginning of prosperity and love.

You will have the spiritual strength to deal with an emotional loss. You will be wanting closure or wanting to withdraw from other people. Your passion will be ignited once again, have faith. Accept the changes and you will see your spiritual growth.

TAURUS

SCORPIO

There will be opportunity of celebrations with friends. Love temptations and indulgence is on the cards. You will feel happy and successful. Some of you will keep an eye on your wellness.

End game of some sort in your life, you might end a chapter with a close friend or a relationship. This is the time to face your worst fears. Wading through the dark will show you the light at the end of the tunnel.

GEMINI

SAGITTARIUS

Your destiny is changing now for the better. You will feel the love around you, sharing and expressing yourself to the wider world. You need to balance yourself, do self improvements. Beware of deception and envy.

You are in a triumphant phase. You endured a long period of hard work or stagnation. A new foundation, a launch or recognition in career is coming. Your life cycle is going towards a new successful phase and new achievements.

CANCER

CAPRICORN

Home and family will be your focus. You are moving towards your material and spiritual prosperity, building your assets, bonds for future security. New beginnings for some of you. Travel and relocation is on the cards.

You will be getting out stuck routines or situations in life. The obstacles and challenges will bring in transformation, your suffering will be over your divine soul union is on the cards. Be prepared for financial changes and triumph in situations.

LEO

AQUARIUS

Ending and a beginning. A time forge partnerships. You are confused with lots happening and need for your attention. Have patience and wisdom to deal with everything. A passion will be ignited soon.

Your wishes can be fulfilled this week if you let go of fear and negativity. Your need for intimacy is heightened at this time, you want emotional bonding too. Have faith in your wisdom, you will have success.

VIRGO

PISCES

You are going through memories of love, it is time to think about your relationships, what you want, what you give. Are they mirroring you in some way. You need to heal. Take care of your finances and read everything carefully.

To know more about your reading, please watch her YouTube channel - Link in the Homepage

OneWeek
OneShot

By:

Aarzoo Khurana



Portraying KERALA

**ALLEPPEY
BACKWATERS**

PC: SAAHIL RAHMAN

A night shot of Chinese fishing net at Alleppey Backwaters.

A fixed light/lamp on top of the chinese fishing net attract fishes. The nets are constructed out of teak wood or metal pipes, they work on the principle of balance.

The system is sufficiently balanced that the weight of a man walking along the main beam is sufficient to cause the net to descend into the water.

Thank you for
READING...

CULTURAL eMAGAZINE

INK **OCHI**
FIRST OF ITS KIND FROM KERALA

YOUR
FEEDBACK
MATTERS

ACROSS CONTINENTS

OUR WEEKLY REACH

25K IN INDIA

5K IN KOCHI

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